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**PUBLIC NOTICE NO. MT-15-39
July 31, 2015****LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL
POLICY OFFICE**PURPOSE OF PUBLIC NOTICE

The purpose of this notice is to state the Department's intention to issue wastewater discharge permits to the facilities listed in this notice. These permits are issued by the Department under the authority of 75-5-402, Montana Code Annotated (MCA); the Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) 17.30.1301 *et seq.*, Montana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (MPDES); and Sections 402 and 303 of the Federal Clean Water Act. The Water Protection Bureau has prepared draft permits for the facilities listed below. Copies of the draft permits, fact sheet, and environmental assessments are available upon request from the Water Protection Bureau or on the Department's website www.deq.mt.gov.

APPLICANT INFORMATION

APPLICANT: Stillwater Mining Company

FACILITY NAME: Stillwater East Boulder Mine

FACILITY LOCATION: Township 4S, Range 13E, Sections 2 & 11
Sweet Grass County, Montana

RECEIVING WATER: East Boulder River and associated ground water

PERMIT NUMBER: MT0026808

The Stillwater East Boulder Mine is an underground platinum and palladium mine with an associated mill and lined tailings impoundment. The mine is located approximately 32 miles southeast of Big Timber, Montana, in Sweet Grass County. DEQ first issued MPDES permit MT0026808 to Stillwater Mining Company for their East Boulder Mine in 1988 and last renewed the permit in 2000. This permitting action is a renewal of the existing MPDES permit.

The permit authorizes discharge of treated adit water, which is ground water that has infiltrated the underground mine workings, either directly to the East Boulder River (Outfall 001) or to ground water associated with the East Boulder River (Outfall 002). It also authorizes treated sanitary sewer discharge from the domestic septic drainfield (Outfall 003).

The draft permit incorporates technology-based and water quality-based effluent limits and ensures the limits do not cause degradation of the East Boulder River. Monitoring is required for the effluent to demonstrate compliance with the limits. In addition, the renewed permit requires Best Management Practices (BMPs), a wastewater optimization study to reduce nutrient loading, and

ambient monitoring to provide additional data.

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APPLICANT: Stillwater Mining Company
1321 Discovery Drive
Billings, MT 59102

FACILITY NAME: Stillwater Mine

FACILITY LOCATION: 2526 Nye Road
Nye MT 59061

COUNTY Stillwater

RECEIVING WATER: Stillwater River

PERMIT NUMBER: MT0024716

This permitting action is the renewal of an existing Montana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (MPDES) permit for discharge of mine drainage water from the Stillwater Mine to the Stillwater River. The water is treated to remove total suspended solids and reduce nitrogen concentrations. The permit includes one as yet unconstructed outfall (Outfall 001) for discharge directly to the Stillwater River and two discharges to ground water and the Stillwater River via percolation ponds (Outfall 002 and 003).

This permit renewal updates the water quality-based effluent limits for Outfall 001 and imposes new limits on the discharges at Outfall 002 and Outfall 003. These new limits include technology-based effluent limits for pH and total suspended solids, and water quality-based limits for aluminum, cadmium, copper, iron, lead, mercury, nickel, silver, zinc, nitrate plus nitrate, and ammonia. The total nitrogen limit applied at Outfall 002 and 003 was also updated to reflect the new water quality standard.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comments are invited ANYTIME PRIOR TO CLOSE OF BUSINESS August 31, 2015. Comments may be directed to the DEQ Permitting & Compliance Division, Water Protection Bureau, PO Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620. All comments received or postmarked PRIOR TO CLOSE OF BUSINESS August 31, 2015 will be considered in the formulation of final determinations to be imposed on the permits. If you wish to comment electronically, you may e-mail the Department at DEQWPBPublicComments@mt.gov.

During the public comment period provided by the notice, the Department will accept requests for a

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public hearing. A request for a public hearing must be in writing and must state the nature of the issue proposed to be raised in the hearing (ARM 17.30.1373).

The Department will respond to all substantive comments and issue a final decision within sixty days of this notice or as soon as possible thereafter. Additional information may be obtained upon request by calling (406) 444-3080 or by writing to the aforementioned address. The complete administrative record, including permit application and other pertinent information, is maintained at the Water Protection Bureau office in Helena and is available for review during business hours.

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